PonJola Coney, M.D. has served as Senior Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine at Meharry Medical College since July 2002. Prior to assuming the position of Dean, Dr. Coney served for eight years as Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Southern Illinois University. Her research interests are in the areas of menopausal health, in vitro fertilization and contraceptive development. She was a Fellow in the inaugural class of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women and was a founding officer of SELAM, the Society for Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine, whose mission is to support and assist in the advancement of women into executive positions. She is a native of McComb, MS. She obtained a B.S. degree from Xavier University in New Orleans and her M.D. degree from the University of Mississippi in Jackson, MS. After completing a residency in obstetrics and gynecology and a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology, Dr. Coney served as full-time faculty at the University of Oklahoma, University of Nebraska, and University of Arizona.